GATHERING SONG  
She Comes Sailing on the Wind (TFWS 2122)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We have gathered here in worship to celebrate, but also to reflect and to lament.

People: We celebrate your great love for us and the love that we feel via Christ’s presence and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the world.

Leader: We reflect on the progress made by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in over 40 years of service, and the diligence of annual conference COSROWS to be the local eyes and ears for this very important work.

People: We lament upon the fact that even after four decades, we still have much work to do.

Leader: We come today with joys and with frustrations, with stories of great triumph and stories of even greater injustice. We come having been broken, having witnessed brokenness, and even having contributed to the breaking of others.

People: We come with humility, seeking to learn, to share, and to grow: deeper in our faith, wider in our discipleship, and more courageous in our witness for you and for those women who will not – or cannot – speak for themselves.

Leader: Pierce our hearts, disturb our complacency, provoke us even to anger – to righteous indignation – on behalf of our sisters, ourselves – as we strive towards justice and equality for all.

All: We are here, we are open, we are willing servants. Make us, move us, mold us, challenge us, propel us for your service. Amen.
OPENING PRAYER

Sustainer God, giver of all provision, strength, and power, the one who has called me by name and has equipped me to do your work and share your love in this world, I confess to you today that I am tired of this fight. I am tired of demanding a place at your table, a voice in the pulpit, a seat in the pew. I wonder if there are any more words to say than what has been said by so many, for so long. I wonder if there are any more ways of showing how destructive it is and what it means to be included out. I wonder if it is in me to continue. It matters and so, with your help, I will carry on. Guide my words and actions and may they honor you. I ask for strength in the struggle and your presence with me on this journey. Amen.

OPENING SONG

In Unity We Lift Our Song (TFWS 2221)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 15:21-28

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Just One Word from You (ZSS 146)

SERMON

Rev. Liz Lopez

RESPONSIVE SONG

Esther Round

PASSING OF THE PEACE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you
And also with you
Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks and praise
It is right to give our thanks and praise
We give thanks for all God has done ...

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and might
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is she who comes in the name of the lord
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you...

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ is coming again.

And so together we pray:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here
and on these gifts of bread and juice.

Make them be for us the body of Christ,
that we may be for all the world
the body of Christ, redeemed by your love.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other
And one in ministry to all the world,
Until the final days when we feast at your heavenly banquet
where all are fed, clothed, and welcome.

Through your beloved child, Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit, as your Holy Church
All honor and glory are yours, heavenly creator,
Now and forever.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Mother who is in all things and who created all things, holy is your name. Your kindom come, your will be done here and now as it will be forever. Give us today all that we need and forgive us our sins as you teach us to forgive those who have hurt and abused us. Lead us today in right paths and deliver us from temptation. For yours is the kindom and the glory forever and ever. Amen.
COMMUNION SONG  
As We Gather at Your Table (TFWS 2268)

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER

CLOSING SONG  
As a Fire is Meant for Burning, (TFWS 2237)

BENEDICTION  
Rev. Liz Lopez

Our worship leader today is Shannon Dilks, who ministers in music at Dalewood United Methodist in Nashville, TN.

Rev. Darryl Stephens, Director of Sexual Ethics for the General Commission for the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW), is serving as our deacon.

The Call to Worship was written by Kentina Washington, Office Assistant for GCSRW.

The Opening Prayer comes from Shaping Sanctuary: Proclaiming God and Grace in an Inclusive Church, Kelly Turner editor. The book was published by the Reconciling Congregation Program in 2000.

Esther Round, composed by Anne Freeman Price in 1996, was used as a theme for the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) during General Conference in 2000.